

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No. 1:24-mj-02073-Reid

FILED BY TS D.C.

Jan 12, 2024

ANGELA E. NOBLE
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.
S. D. OF FLA. - Miami

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MICHAEL QUESENBERRY and
SAVANNAH ROSE MINAMI,

Defendants.

CRIMINAL COVER SHEET

1. Did this matter originate from a matter pending in the Northern Region of the United States Attorney's Office prior to August 8, 2014 (Mag. Judge Shaniek M. Maynard)? No.
2. Did this matter originate from a matter pending in the Central Region of the United States Attorney's Office prior to October 3, 2019 (Mag. Judge Jared M. Strauss)? No.
3. Did this matter involve the participation of or consultation with now Magistrate Judge Eduardo I. Sanchez during his tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, which concluded on January 22, 2023? No.

Respectfully submitted,

MARKENZY LAPOINTE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: /s/ Sterling M. Paulson
Sterling M. Paulson
Assistant United States Attorney
Court ID No. A5503032
United States Attorney's Office
99 NE 4th Street, 6th Floor
Miami, FL 33132
Tel.: 305-961-9302
Email: sterling.paulson@usdoj.gov

AO 91 (Rev. 08/09) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Florida

United States of America
v.
MICHAEL QUESENBERRY and
SAVANNAH ROSE MINAMI,

Case No. 1:24-mj-02073-Reid

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of January 11, 2024, in the county of Miami-Dade in the
Southern District of Florida, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

21 U.S.C. § 846
21 U.S.C. § 841(a)

Offense Description

Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance
Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.


Complainant's Signature

Joseph Angarone, Special Agent, HSI
Printed name and title

Attested to by the Applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed.R.Crim.P. 4.1 by Face Time

Date: January 12, 2024


Judge's signature

City and state: Miami, Florida

Hon. Lisette M. Reid, United States Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Your Affiant, Joseph Angarone, being duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. I am a Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security – Homeland Security Investigations and have been so employed since March 2023. I graduated from the Criminal Investigator Training Program (CITP) and Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Training (HSISAT), at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, in Glynco, Georgia, in 2023. Prior to my tenure as a Special Agent, I worked as a police officer for eight years. I earned a master's degree in criminal justice from DePaul University.

2. In my current position as a Special Agent with HSI, I am an investigative or law enforcement officer of the United States within the meaning of Section 2510(7) of Title 18 of the United States Code; that is, an officer of the United States who is empowered by law to conduct investigations and make arrests for offenses enumerated in Titles 8, 18, 19 and 21 of the United States Code. In my current capacity, I am responsible for conducting criminal investigations involving narcotics, money laundering, fraud, smuggling, and related offenses contained in Title 8, 18, 19, and 21 of the United States Code. I have participated in numerous investigations involving these violations and I am familiar with methods and practices of persons accused of such crimes.

3. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint charging defendants **MICHAEL QUESENBERRY** (“**QUESENBERRY**”) and **SAVANNAH ROSE MINAMI** (“**MINAMI**”), with violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 (Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance), and 841(a) (Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance).

4. This Affidavit is based upon my personal knowledge, my review of documents and other evidence, and my conversations with law enforcement personnel and civilian witnesses. As I submit this Affidavit for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, I have not included each and every fact presently known to law enforcement regarding this crime. Rather, I have included only the facts that are sufficient to establish probable cause. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

PROBABLE CAUSE

5. On or about January 11, 2024, at Miami Sea Port, within the Southern District of Florida, law enforcement encountered **QUESENBERRY** and **MINAMI** aboard a cruise ship, Norwegian Vessel Joy 1, slated to travel from Miami, Florida, to Southampton, England.

6. Upon encountering both defendants in a passenger room, **MINAMI** claimed that she had just met **QUESENBERRY** at the bar on the ship, and that she did not previously know **QUESENBERRY**. Law enforcement told **MINAMI** that she was free to leave, and she left the room.

7. Law enforcement noted that **QUESENBERRY** was traveling with two suitcases, a carryon bag, and a backpack. **QUESENBERRY** claimed each piece of luggage and the contents thereof as his own belongings. Law enforcement also conducted a drug canine sniff of the luggage. The drug canine issued a positive signal for the presence of contraband.

8. In a subsequent inspection of the luggage, law enforcement discovered 56 separate vacuum-sealed bags containing a green, leafy substance. Law enforcement conducted a field test that returned a positive result for marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance.

9. **QUESENBERRY** claimed that this marijuana was for personal use and that he had a medical marijuana card back in California.

10. After discovering this bulk marijuana in **QUESENBERRY**'s luggage, law enforcement located **MINAMI** at a bar on the cruise ship and escorted her back to her own room on the cruise ship.

11. In **MINAMI**'s quarters, law enforcement identified two suitcases, a carryon bag, and a backpack. **MINAMI** claimed each piece of luggage and the contents thereof as her own.

12. Law enforcement conducted a border search of this luggage. Inside of **MINAMI**'s luggage, law enforcement discovered 56 separate vacuum-sealed bags containing a green, leafy substance. Law enforcement conducted a field test that returned a positive result for marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance.

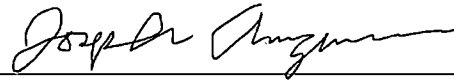
13. Based on initial testing and analysis, the combined weight of marijuana across the packages seized from **QUESENBERRY** and **MINAMI** is approximately 71.9 kilograms.

14. Based on my training and experience, the packaging and quantity of marijuana in the luggage belonging to each of **QUESENBERRY** and **MINAMI** is consistent with drug trafficking and distribution. Further, based on my training and experience, drug traffickers are increasingly turning to exportation of marijuana from the United States to England, due to the higher price of marijuana in England.

CONCLUSION

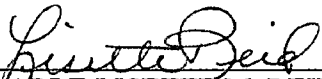
15. Based on my training and experience, and as supported by the facts in this affidavit, I submit that there is probable cause to charge each of **MICHAEL QUESENBERRY** (“QUESENBERRY”) and **SAVANNAH ROSE MINAMI** (“MINAMI”), with violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 (Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance), and 841(a) (Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance).

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.



JOSEPH ANGARONE
SPECIAL AGENT
Type HERE Homeland Security Investigations

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed.R.Crim.P. 4.1
by Face Time this 12th day of January, 2024.



HONORABLE LISETTE M. REID
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE